

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 OMB-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 MC-02 EB-11 L-03 /063 R

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PM/ MAS: COL. FARNHAM(DRAFT)

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R 230021 Z MAY 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO USMTM DHAHRAN
DA
COE
COE DISTR ENG
SECDEF
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098499

SECDEF FOR DSAA AND ISA

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS; SA
SUBJECT: MODA REQUEST FOR MILITARY VEHICLES

REF: JIDDA 1765

1. PRINCE SULTAN'S LETTER TO AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS SULTAN
ONLY RECENTLY INFORMED BY MODA G-4 AND ARMY CHIEF OF
ORDNANCE EXTENT TO WHICH REBUILT VEHICLES COMPOSE PROPOSED
VEHICLE BUY. SO THAT EMBASSY AND USMTM MAY FULLY UNDER-
STAND CIRCUMSTANCES AS REGARDS SAUDI REQUEST FOR VEHICLES,
WE REVIEWING CERTAIN BACKGROUND AS WELL AS INFORMING YOU
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OF CURRENT INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE ALTERNATE SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

2. IN MAY 72 SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY (SAA) PROVIDED ITS FIVE YEAR VEHICLE REQUIREMENT ESTIMATE TO DA WASHINGTON. PLAN WAS REVIEWED AND A BROCHURE PROVIDING PRICE, AVAILABILITY AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO BE USED FOR PLANNING FORWARDED IN AUGUST TO DISTRICT ENGINEER, RIYADH FOR DELIVERY TO THE SAA ORDNANCE CORPS. IN SEPTEMBER AN FMS REPRESENTATIVE FROM DA VISITED SAUDI ARABIA. SAA ORDNANCE CORPS COMMANDER AND HIS STAFF WERE INFORMED THAT US. ARMY POSITION RE NEW VEHICLE PROCUREMENT UNCERTAIN UNTIL AN ON- GOING EVALUATION (" WHEELS STUDY") COMPLETED LATER IN YEAR. THEY WERE TOLD THAT NEW PROCUREMENT ON A LARGE SCALE VERY DOUBTFUL DUE TO REDUCTION IN SIZE OF ARMY AND

THAT REBUILD VEHICLES AND SOME COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WOULD PROBABLY BE INTRODUCED INTO THE INVENTORY. AT THAT POINT, SAA PERSONNEL SUGGESTED THAT NEW VEHICLES SHOULD BE PURCHASED INDEPENDENTLY OF U. S. ARMY PROCUREMENT AND LETTERS OF OFFER WERE REQUESTED FROM A SOLE SOURCE PRODUCER (AGENERAL) FOR APPROXIMATELY 1850 VEHICLES. FIVE LETTERS OF OFFER WERE FORWARDED TO SAUDI ARABIA IN LATE OCTOBER 72 AND WERE REFUSED BY MODA ON 30 NOV 72 BECAUSE OF EXCESSIVE COST. UP TO THIS POINT, REBUILT VEHICLES WERE CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

3. IN DECEMBER A NEW G-4 WAS ASSIGNED TO MODA. HE REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT REBUILD VEHICLE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA. IN FEBRUARY 73 A DA FMS REP AGAIN VISITED SAUDI ARABIA AND DISCUSSED VEHICLE PROCUREMENT; SAA WAS INFORMED THAT U. S. ARMY WILL PROCURE NEW 1/4 TON AND 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS FOR THE LAST TIME UNTIL PROBABLY FY 1977-78. DA RECOMMENDED THAT SAA REQUEST LETTERS OF OFFER FOR AS MANY 1/4 AND 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS AS THEY COULD FUND ON THIS LAST PROCUREMENT. SAA PERSONNEL INDICATED A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES DUE TO NEW UNIT ACTIVATIONS. THEY STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WISHED TO PROCURE THE M- SERIES VEHICLES AVAILABLE NOW.

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4. ON 22 FEB COE REQUESTED LETTERS OF OFFER IN BEHALF OF SAUDIS FOR APPROXIMATELY 4400 NEW 1/4 TON AND 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS (SEVERAL MODELS). THESE LETTERS OF OFFER PROVIDED IN MID- APRIL. SAA IS HOLDING UP ON DECISION TO PURCHASE NEW VEHICLES UNTIL QUESTION OF REBUILD HAS BEEN DECIDED. ADDITIONALLY, IT WAS PLANNED THAT A SAUDI ORDNANCE OFFICER AND A U. S. ADVISOR WOULD VISIT A REBUILD FACILITY

IN CONUS DURING APRIL 73, AFTER SAA LOG TOUR, TO EVALUATE THE VEHICLES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MODA. HOWEVER, IN APRIL VISIT POSTPONED PENDING A MODA REVIEW OF VEHICLE PROGRAM. ON 3 APRIL LETTERS OF OFFER WERE REQUESTED BY COE, RIYADH, FOR PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES LISTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL FROM REBUILD. THESE LETTERS OF OFFER ARE CURRENTLY BEING STAFFED AT DA.

5. DECISION OF SAA ORDNANCE CORPS TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF REBUILD VEHICLES WAS APPARENTLY MADE IN ORDER THAT SAA COULD CONTINUE PURCHASING M- SERIES VEHICLES AND THEREBY MAINTAIN STABILITY IN ITS SUPPORT PROGRAM.

6. A REVIEW OF WAR RESERVE STOCKS REVEALS NO NEW VEHICLES OF THE TYPES REQUESTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL ARE CURRENTLY STO
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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